



Friday
June 3, 2011

Weekly Views

The IDOC was well represented at the Kickoff Ceremony for the Indiana Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run in downtown Indianapolis. Runners from the New Castle Correctional Facility (NCCF) and the IDOC's Central SERT Team ran the kick-off leg which officially opens the Summer Games for Special Olympics. NCCF was a \$5000 sponsor of the Torch Run and the IDOC, Plainfield Correctional Facility, Pendleton Correctional Facility, Westville Correctional Facility, Putnamville Correctional Facility, Miami Correctional Facility all received special recognition on the official Torch Run t-shirt for their donations.

Forty-two students at Pendleton Juvenile volunteered to participate in the Relay for Life. The students named their team Desire, Time, and Effort (DTE). \$271 has been donated by staff to this worthy cause. Another relay is scheduled to be held on June 8th. Relay for Life began in 1985 when Dr. Gordy Klatt, a colorectal surgeon in Tacoma, Washington, ran and walked around a track for 24 hours to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Since then, Relay for Life has grown from a single man's passion to fight cancer into the world's largest movement to end the disease.

Executive Director of Adult Facilities James Basinger and Wabash Valley Superintendent Dick Brown hosted a Thank You lunch for minimum security offenders who, during recent heavy flooding, helped save the New Harmony water supply and sewer system by filling over 13,000 sandbags for the levee. WVCF work crews also filled over 18,000 sandbags in the Evansville area.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility hosted the first Juvenile Crime Summit. Over 100 individuals from all areas of the criminal justice system attended. The topic of the summit was learning the trends of gang violence in our communities. One of the keynote speakers was Frank Straub, Director of Public Safety for the city of Indianapolis. PNJCF's Future Soldiers greeted the visitors and presented the honor flag quilt made by the PLUS program at Wabash Valley. (see photo below)



Westville's Therapeutic Community (TC) sponsored a McDonald's Food Sale for the TC's 436 offenders. For the first time, 78 offenders on the facility's TC waiting unit were invited to join in the community's food sale. The sale netted a profit of \$1,301. The money will go to the Michigan City Life Care Center, a local nursing home where the TC sponsors a resident's Birthday Club and the "Holiday in a Box" program that sends holiday decorations to the home.

Another chapter has closed on the career of Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) Law Librarian Jerry Huston, who retired after 14 years of service to WVCF.

Superintendent Dick Brown hosted a retirement reception for Jerry, thanking him for his work as a secretary with IT, as a LAN Administrator Associate in IT and as the longtime Clerk for the north side Law Library. Jerry said he plans to spend time carefully studying an extensive "honey do" list during his leisure time.

A reception was held for staff who retired from the Indiana State Prison. Sarah Mangold, Patricia Griffin, Linda and Chuck Wood and Harry Bentley were all recognized for their years of service. The five individuals represent 110 years of experience.

Correctional Officer Ronald Tischler retired from the Pendleton Correctional Facility. Officer Tischler was presented with a plaque in recognition and appreciation for his 29 years of dedicated service to the facility and to the Department. Congratulations Officer Tischler!

Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) Superintendent Steve McCauley, Assistant Superintendent LaShelle Turner and Major Pete Peckham attended the celebration of IWP Officers Tyler Parlette and Billy Wharton's graduation from the Specialized Emergency Response Team (SERT) Academy. Congratulations Officers Parlette and Wharton!

Derrick Turner, IDOC Parole Agent, was guest speaker for a job club at PEN Products Central Office. The Job Club was attended by PEN's resident workers from the Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility. Mr. Turner's presentation was very well received and followed by a lengthy question and answer session with the residents.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility became a classroom for Indiana State University Criminology students. Professor Shannon M. Barton-Bellessa said the tour gave her students a firsthand look at offender life behind bars and the challenges faced by staff dedicated to their successful re-entry into society. Students have also toured Rockville and the Putnamville Correctional Facilities.

A commencement ceremony was conducted at the Pendleton Correctional Facility to honor the most recent offender graduates of the Ball State University and Grace College programs. Shortridge High School Principal Brandon Cosby served as guest speaker for the graduation event.